

ASMFC Striped Bass Management



Meeting with a subgroup of SFAC members to provide DNR with initial input on management preferences for ASMFC Draft Addendum IV

June 30, 2014

(Modified Presentation from June 10, 2014 ad hoc SFAC subgroup meeting)

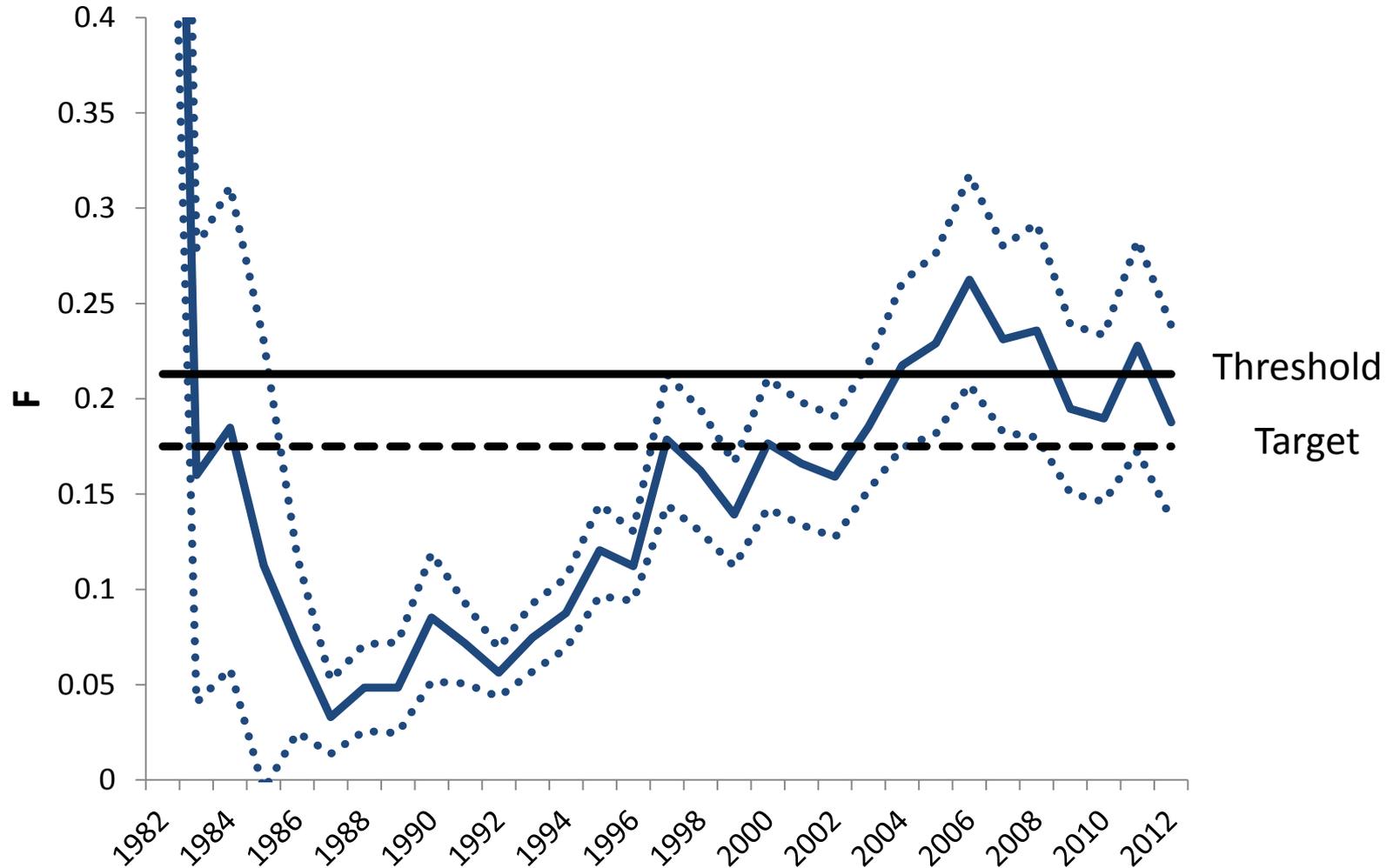
Introduction

- The information contained in this presentation for Draft Addendum IV to the ASMFC Interstate Management Plan for Striped Bass should be viewed as preliminary material as the Draft Addendum remains under development.
- Recognizing the importance of striped bass to Maryland fishermen, this information is being presented now to facilitate stakeholder discussions on preferred management options, including timeframes and strategies for achieving harvest reductions, if approved by the Board in October 2014.
- Other options have been suggested by SFAC members who attended the June 10th ad hoc meeting but are not included at this time because they remain under technical review.
- Please review the information in this presentation and discuss it with the stakeholders you represent as a member of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission (SFAC), and be prepared to represent their perspective on this management issue at the July 22, 2014 SFAC meeting.
- Stakeholder preference information will allow Maryland's three representatives who serve on the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board to be adequately informed prior to the August 2014 Board meeting at which time the Board will consider making Draft Addendum IV available for public comment.
- If you have any questions / comments, please contact Tom O'Connell by email at thomas.o'connell@dnr.state.md.us or phone at 410-260-8281.

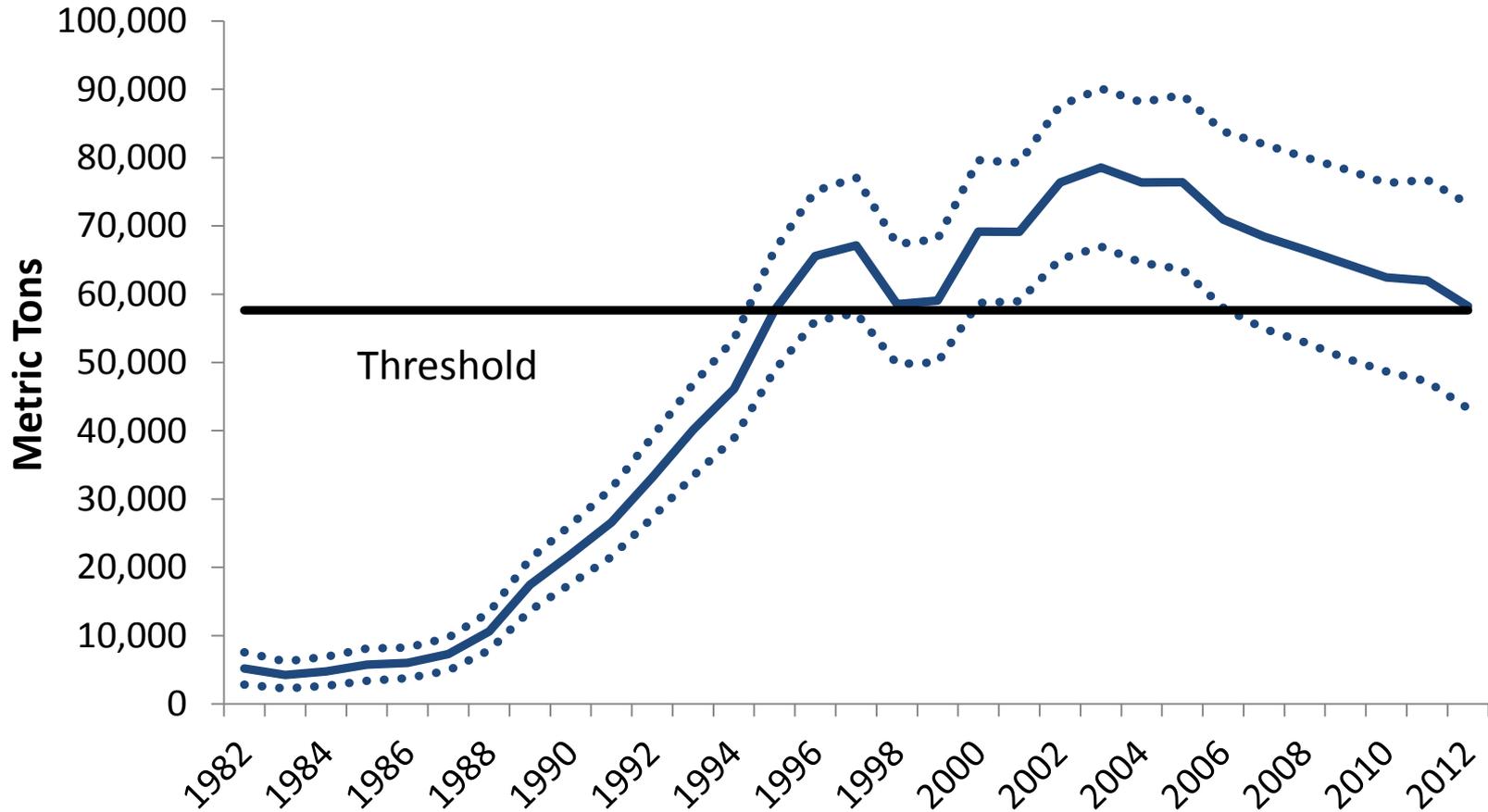
Status of Atlantic Coast Striped Bass Stock

- 2012 peer reviewed stock assessment
 - Not overfished
 - Overfishing is not occurring
 - Between target and threshold for both fishing mortality and female spawning stock biomass (SSB)
- SSB is trending downward.
 - High probability 2014 will be below threshold
- SSB is at a similar level to 1995 when striped bass were declared recovered.

Fishing Mortality



Spawning Stock Biomass



Goal of ASMFC Draft Addendum IV

- Reduce fishing mortality to the target level in both the Coastal and Chesapeake Bay fisheries.
- Separate reference points for Chesapeake Bay are not yet available.
- Equal reduction needed for both Coastal and Chesapeake Bay fisheries.
- How do Maryland's fisheries break out?
 - Coastal fishery
 - Atlantic coastal sport and commercial fishery
 - Spring trophy fishery
 - Chesapeake Bay fishery
 - Summer / Fall sport fishery
 - Summer / Fall / Winter commercial fishery

ASMFC Process and Timeline

- **June – August:** Board committee to work with Plan Development Team and Technical Committee to refine management options
- **August:** Consider approval of Draft Addendum for Public Comment
- **September - October:** Public comment period
- **October:** Board Reviews Public Comment
 - Final approval of options and Addendum
- **January 2015:** Implement Addendum measures

Status of Draft Addendum IV

- Range of timeframes and reductions being considered to reduce fishing mortality to target level:
 - 1 year (24.7%)
 - 2 years: harvest reduction in year 1 and kept in place for 2 years (20.5%) **NOTE: The Board has not yet approved the inclusion of a 2-year option for Draft Addendum IV, but it is within the range of a 1 and 3-year option and could be considered as a final action. So, it is still worthwhile to consider options associated with a 2-year plan.**
 - 3 years
 - Option A: harvest reduction in year 1 and kept in place for 3 years (17%)
 - Option B: 1/3 of a reduction in each of three consecutive years (6.9%)
- Note: The percent harvest reductions were revised downward by the ASMFC Technical Committee based upon the incorporation of reported 2013 commercial discard numbers that recently became available. The Technical Committee had previously used 2012 discard estimates.

Spring Trophy Season Management Preferences

- History
 - 1991: 36", 1 fish and May 11th start date
 - 1993: 36", 1 fish and May 1st start date
 - Minimum size lowered and/or start date made earlier for several following years to current management of 28", 1 fish and 3rd Saturday in April start date
- Spring Trophy Fishery Management Options to Discuss
 - Minimum Size:
 - Increase
 - Season:
 - Delay start date

Summer / Fall Fishery Management Preferences

- Creel Limit
 - Reduce to 1 fish
 - Reduce to 1 fish for portion of season (by MRIP wave)
- Size Limit
 - Increase minimum size
- Season
 - Close portion of season
 - Technical Committee has expressed concerns with seasonal closures due to recoupment issues

Spring Trophy Fishery

Identifying Stakeholder Preferences

Options for reducing harvest all in first year under 1, 2 and 3 year scenarios.

(Note: There are currently no 2 year options in the Draft Addendum but it remains a viable option for consideration)

	Spring Management Options			% decrease in number of fish (2013 data)
	Creel	Size	Season	
1	1 fish/day	36" min	status quo	26%
2	1 fish/day	33" min	May 1 start	25%
3	1 fish/day	35" min	status quo	21%
4	1 fish/day	33" min	April 26 start	17%

Harvest reductions

Timeframe	Reduction
1 year	24.7%
2 year – all in first year	20.5%
3 year – all in first year	17.0%

Spring Trophy Fishery

Identifying Stakeholder Preferences

Phased in Spring Management Options					
Status quo season and creel limit					
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
		33" min	34" min	35" min	
5	% decrease in number of fish (2013 data)	11%*	+5%	+5%	21%

Options for reducing harvest over 3 years with a reduction occurring in each of three years

- A 32" minimum size does not achieve the minimum 6.9% reduction, so we have to go with a 33" minimum. With our first year reduction exceeding the required 6.9% reduction, we should be able to go with the year 2 and 3 year scenario because this will still achieve the required reduction for a 3-year plan.

Harvest reduction

Timeframe	Reduction
3 year- equal in each of three years	6.9% each year

Summer / Fall Fishery

Identifying Stakeholder Preferences

Options for reducing harvest all in first year under 1, 2 and 3 year scenarios.

(Note: There are currently no 2 year options in the draft Addendum but it remains a viable option for consideration)

	Summer/Fall Management Options			% decrease in number of fish (2013 data)
	Creel	Size	Season	
6	status quo	20" min, 1 over 28"	status quo	24%
7	1 fish/day 2 fish/day	18" min 18" min, 1 over 28"	May 16-Oct 31 Nov 1-Dec 15	26%
8	status quo	19" min, 1 over 28"	status quo	18%
9	1 fish/day 2 fish/day	18" min 18" min, 1 over 28"	May 16-Aug 31 Sept 1-Dec 15	16%

Harvest reductions

Timeframe	Reduction
1 year	24.7%
2 year – all in first year	20.5%
3 year – all in first year	17.0%

Summer / Fall Fishery

Identifying Stakeholder Preferences

Phased in Summer/Fall Management Option						% decrease in numbers of fish (2013 data)*
Status quo size limits						
		May 16- June 30	July 1- Aug 31	Sept 1-Oct 31	Nov 1-Dec 15	
10	Year 1	2 fish/day, 1 over 28			1 fish/day Nov to end of season	8%
	Year 2	2 fish/day, 1 over 28		1 fish/day Sept to end of season		+10%
	Year 3	2 fish/day, 1 over 28	1 fish/day July thru Oct		2 fish/day, 1 over 28	+8%
					TOTAL	26%

Options for reducing harvest over 3 years with a reduction occurring in each of three years

* With the seasonal aspect of this scenario set at a 2-month level which is the sampling level for estimating recreational harvest, this scenario is projected to slightly exceed the required reduction level.

Harvest reduction

Timeframe	Reduction
3 year- equal in each of three years	6.9% each year

Atlantic Coastal Sport Fishery

Identifying Stakeholder Options

Coastal Sport Fishery Identifying Stakeholder Options				% decrease in number of fish (2013 data)
	Creel	Size	Season	
11	1 fish	28" minimum	status quo	25%
12	2 fish	33" minimum	status quo	29%
13	2 fish	28"-34" slot	status quo	28%
14	2 fish	1 fish 28"-34", 1 over 36"	status quo	<28%*
15	2 fish	32" minimum	status quo	21%**

Harvest reductions

Timeframe	Reduction
1 year	24.7%
2 year – all in first year**	20.5%
3 year – all in first year	17.0%

* Reduction by this option still being evaluated by the ASMFC Technical Committee

** There are currently no 2 year options in the draft Addendum but it is a viable option for consideration